viewed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Mizoram and Nagaland are protected Areas so declared under the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order 1958, and Meghalaya is a Restricted area under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963. All foreigners, other than citizens of Bhutan, require permits to enter these areas. Under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873, even Indian citizens, not normally resident in certain parts of Nagaland and Mizoram, require permission to visit these areas.

(b) Various factors like proximity to the International border, general law and order situation, sensitivity of the areas and presence of insurgent elements etc. are the reasons.

(c) to (e). The orders pertaining to Inner Line Permit System are reviewed from time to time keeping in view the needs and exigencies of the situation.

[Translation]

Closure of Mines

5008. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of mines in the country are lying closed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for their revival by adopting new technology; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these mines are likely to be reopened, State-Wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Looting of Cash of R.M.S. Department, Varanasi

5009. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether about three lakhs of rupees meant for payment to the employees of RMS department, Varanasi had been looted in the broad day light;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). On 1.7.89 at about 1210 hours, a sum of Rs. 2,95,325-11 was looted by three armed robbers when it was being conveyed in a cycle-rickshaw from Varanasi Mail Office to Varanasi Sub-record Office at a distance of about one K.M. This amount also included a sum of Rs. 78,415-65 recovered as Cooperative Society dues from the employees.

(c) The case was immediately reported to the police. The police investigation is in progress. Departmental proceedings against the officials responsible for the various lapses noticed during investigation are also in progress.